

AFDS 1/8/23

What If? by Jan Phillips

What if Jesus wasn't born of a virgin, but of a mother
who burned with desire, wrapped herself
around her man like ivy on an oak?

What if he was born in a comfortable house in Nazareth,
the third of seven children, hungry for experience,
on fire for justice?

What if he sailed off to Egypt and India to learn from the masters,
sink his teeth into Emptiness, compress the ten thousand things
into a handful of parables?

What if he came to Earth for the same reasons we did:
to smell jasmine, taste pomegranate,
touch the cherry blossom cheek of a blushing lover?

What if the real truth of your life
is that you came here to be a mighty light?

And when you left those radiant beings at the gate
waving and cheering you on – you promised
you wouldn't forget where you came from,
but look at you now, hanging by a thread,
every day wondering if it even matters.

What if you closed your eyes and sat still for awhile?

Would you remember that Light is still Who You Are –
that flame inside you, that tongue a-blazing,
that burning star in the sky of your mind,
all light, all yours, all joyful and triumphant.

O Holy Night!